CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

ITEM
Council Bill No. 2024-002 – (Re-adoption of Code of Ethics Ordinance)

MEETING DATE
August 5, 2024

REVIEWED BY:
Peter Edwards, City Attorney; Leslie Haase, Finance Director; Holly Nagy, City Clerk; Nick Edwards, City Manager.

SUMMARY:

This Council Bill re-adopts Chapter 2, Administration, of the Joplin City Code, Section 2-107, "Financial interest disclosure", which requires certain officials and employees of the City of Joplin to file Financial Interest Disclosure Statements.

BACKGROUND:

Each year by September 15th, it is necessary to re-adopt our Code of Ethics for the Council, and certain City employees in order to "opt out" of the provisions of Section 105.485.2.

A certified copy of this Council Bill will be forwarded to the Missouri Ethics Commission prior to September 15, 2024.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends this Council Bill be placed on First Reading.

ATTACHMENTS:
Council Bill No. 2024-002

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COUNCIL BILL NO. 2024-002 ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE re-adopting Chapter 2, Administration, of the Joplin City Code, Section 2-107, "Financial interest disclosure", requiring certain officials and employees of the City of Joplin to file Financial Interest Disclosure Statements as described herein.

WHEREAS, Missouri Statute Section 105.483, RSMo. (2023), requires certain financial interest disclosures by certain officials and employees of the City of Joplin; and

WHEREAS, the City of Joplin has an Ethics Code for its Council, as codified in Section 2-50, "Code of ethics", and the Charter of the City of Joplin provides certain ethical mandates and prohibitions for officials and employees of the City of Joplin; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Section 105.485.4, RSMo. (2023), the Council desires to establish its own method of disclosing potential conflicts of interest and substantial interests of its officials and certain employees, thus excluding itself from the provisions of Section 105.485.2, RSMo (2023); and

WHEREAS, on the 21st day of August, 2023, the Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, re-enacted and adopted Section 2-107, "Financial interest disclosure", requiring certain officials and employees of the City of Joplin to file Financial Interest Disclosure Statements as described therein; and,

WHEREAS, the Missouri Ethics Commission requires each affected municipality to re-adopt the Financial Interest Disclosure Ordinance by September 15, 2024.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI, as follows:

Section 1. That Section 2-107, "Financial interest disclosure" be re-adopted so that it shall continue to read as follows:

"Section 2-107. Financial interest disclosure.

(a) Conflicts of interest.

(1) All elected and appointed officials as well as employees of the City of Joplin shall comply with Section 105.454 of the Missouri Revised Statutes on conflicts of interest as well as any other state law, or ordinance of the City of Joplin governing official conduct.

(2) Any member of the city council who has a "substantial or private interest" in any measure, bill, order or ordinance proposed or pending before the city council, must disclose that interest to the city clerk, and such disclosure shall be recorded in the appropriate journal of the city council. Substantial or private interest is defined as ownership by the individual, his spouse, or his dependent children, whether singularly or collectively, directly or indirectly of:

a. Ten percent (10%) or more of any business entity; or

b. An interest having a value of Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000.00) or more; or

c. The receipt of a salary, gratuity, or other compensation or remuneration of Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000.00) or more, per year, from an individual, partnership, organization, or association within any calendar year.

(b) Disclosure reports.

(1) Each City Council Person, the City Manager, the City Purchasing Agent, or the Director of Finance, if no such Purchasing Agent is appointed, and the full-time City Attorney, shall disclose the following information by May 1, if any such transaction occurred during the previous calendar year:

a. For such person, and all persons within the first degree of consanguinity or affinity of such person, the date and the identities of the parties to each transaction with a total value in excess of Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00), if any, that such person had with the City of Joplin, other than compensation received as an employee or payment of any tax, fee, or penalty due to the City of Joplin, and other than transfers for no consideration to the City of Joplin;

b. The date and the identities of the parties to each transaction know to the person with a total value in excess of Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00), if any, that any business entity in which such person had a substantial interest, had with the City of Joplin, other than payment of any tax, fee or penalty due to the City of Joplin or transactions involving payment for providing utility service to the City of Joplin, and other than transfers for no consideration to the City of Joplin.

(2) The City Manager, and the City Purchasing Agent, or the Director of Finance if no such purchasing agent is appointed, and the full-time City Attorney, also shall disclose by May 1, for the previous calendar year, the following information:

a. The name and address of each of the employers of such person from whom income of One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00) or more was received during the year covered by the statement;

b. The name and address of each sole proprietorship that he owned; the name, address and general nature of the business conducted of each general partnership and joint venture in which he was a partner or co-participant for each partnership or joint venture unless such names and addresses are filed by the partnership or joint venture with the Secretary of State; the name, address and general nature of the business conducted of any closely held corporation or limited partnership in which the person owned ten percent (10%) or more of any class of the outstanding stock or limited partnership units; and the name of any publicly traded corporation or limited partnership that is listed on a regulated stock exchange or automated quotation system in which the person owned two percent (2%) or more of any class of outstanding stock, limited partnership units or other equity interests;

c. The name and address of each corporation for which such person served in the capacity of a director, officer or receiver.

(c) Filing of reports.

(1) The financial interest statements shall be filed at the following times, but no person is required to file more than one financial interest statement in any calendar year:

a. Every person required to file a financial interest statement shall file the statement annually not later than May 1, and the statement shall cover the calendar year ending the immediately preceding December 31; provided that any member of the City Council may supplement the financial interest statement to report additional interests acquired after December 31 of the covered year until the date of filing of the financial interest statement;

b. Each person appointed to office shall file the statement within thirty (30) days of such appointment or employment.

(2) Financial disclosure reports giving the financial information required in subsection (b) shall be filed with the City Clerk's office and the Missouri Ethics Commission. The reports shall be available for public inspection and copying during normal business hours."

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI, this _____ day of _____, 2024, by a vote of _____.

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Keenan T. Cortez, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Holly Nagy, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Peter C. Edwards, City Attorney